

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-9 and 13 have been cancelled, and claims 10 and 11 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 10-12 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action has requested that Figs. 1 and 3-4 be labeled as prior art because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Each of the Figures of the present application show the relative portions of the vent cleaning system using the swivel cuff of the present invention. Therefore, these figures should not be labeled as prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this requirement is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,792,363 to Franklin, Jr. et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 10 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record is a method of removing dust from a vent which includes “providing a swivel cuff between said vacuum source and an exhaust end of said flexible vacuum conduit so as to minimize torque loads of said flexible shaft.” Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 3, lines 12-14.

Franklin, Jr. et al. neither discloses nor suggests the use of a swivel cuff. As described at column 2, lines 61-68 of Franklin, Jr. et al., the exhaust opening of the flexible conduit is secured to the sanitary-tee of the vacuum source with a simple female connector. This female connector does not swivel. In fact, inasmuch as Franklin, Jr. et al. discloses that the flexible conduit is secured to the vacuum source with a female connector that is not capable of swiveling or otherwise minimizing the torque loads of the flexible shaft, it teaches away from the present invention as defined in independent claim 10. Accordingly,

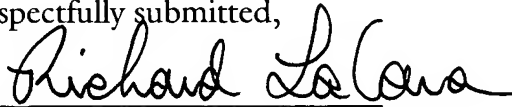
it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 patentably distinguishes over the art of record.

Claims 11 and 12 each depend directly from independent claim 10 and include all of the limitations found therein as well as additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of independent claim 10, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 11 and 12 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 10 and 11, and allowance of the present application with claims 10-12 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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